(c) whether identical cases of the officers of the same batches were approved by the Commission three years back; and

(d) if so, the justification for this discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry of Textiles had appointed three officers on *ad-hoc* basis as far back as in 1976 and 1977. However, only as late as September, 2000, a proposal was received in UPSC from the Ministry regarding regularisation of *ad-hoc* services of these officers. Two of these belong to SOST and one to general category. The Ministry was requested to furnish certain clarifications/nformation *vide* Commission's letter dated March 20, 2001. The information supplied by the Ministry was received in UPSC on 18.7.2001. In the meantime instructions were issued *vide* DoPT O.M. No. 28036/l/2001-Estt.(D) dated 23rd July, 2001 regarding restrictions on regularisation of *ad-hoc* appointments. The proposal was therefor returned to the Ministry of Textiles in February, 2002.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) It is a fact that some officers were regularised by the Commission on the directions of the Court and subsequently another officer was regularised by the Commission on 20.4.1998. However, this was done much before the DoPT's O.M. dated 23.7.2001 referred to above was issued.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Inquiry initiated by officer of same rank

3916. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inquiry Officer in an enquiry intimated under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 amended till date, can be of a rank equivalent to that of a complainant;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant provisions; and

(c) if not, whether the enquiry, if conducted by such an equivalent officer, is vitiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) While there is no specific provision in the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 regarding the level of Inquiry Officers, instructions have been issued to the effect that the inquiries should be conducted by an officer sufficiently senior to the officer whose conduct being inquired into.

(c) In the absence of clear prohibition for appointment of an inquiry officer of an equivalent level officer, the inquiry conducted by such an equivalent officer cannot be held to be vitiated, since the ultimate decision on the inquiry report is to be taken by the disciplinary authority.

Representation from All India Association of SG/ST and Physically **Handicapped**

3917. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grievances submitted to the Prime Minister's Office by the All India Association, for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People's upliftment through post/by hand from 24th August, 2001 to date;

(b) the details of the demands made therein;

(c) the details of the directives sent to the concerned authorities and the action taken as per DoPT/Government policy on reservation;

(d) the reasons for not implementing DoPT order and not taking action by the concerned authorities inspite of several reminders; and

(e) by when the action would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Since 25.8.2001, two letters dated 26.9.2001 and 10.10.2001 have been received in Prime Minister's